

Amendments to the Specification:

Page 1, replace last paragraph and continuing onto page 2 with the following paragraph:

Moreover, manufactures must allow for the added costs of designing such added-feature keyboards. Such costs must unfortunately, be passed on to customers. Additionally, where a variety of different types of new keyboard functions are to be provided, manufacturers must provide a disadvantageously large number of different keyboard models, each one incorporating the standard keyboard features as well as the particular set of new features the buyers of that model of keyboard will be using.

Page 4 , replace second paragraph with the following paragraph:

The term "feature" is used herein to refer to any distinct user control which the user manipulates to produce a signal, distinct from signals produced by user manipulation of other features. For instance, on a keyboard, each key is a distinct feature, and produces a distinct key symbol code signal responsive to being depressed by the user. The signals are preferably part of an "alphabet" or set of signals having certain common characteristics, which facilitate transmission over a communication cable to a computer. For instance, the key symbol code signals might be based on different symbols within the familiar ASCII or EBCDIC codes. It is well known that keyboards are commonly designed based on a keyboard matrix, wherein circuitry is employed within a user interface device or module for generating such code signals based on signals from keys within the keyboard matrix.

Page 7, replace second paragraph with the following paragraph:

Also, preferably the user perceives the features on the various modules as generally similar to, and compatible with, each other. For instance, if two modules are both keyboard modules, for instance one having the basic alphanumeric keyboard and the other having a set of control keys, the keys are preferably all the same size and shape. That is, it would be considered less preferable if one of the modules had typewriter-style keys and the other had calculator-style keys. However, the spirit and scope of the invention would cover even such an arrangement.

Page 8 , replace first paragraph with the following paragraph:

Broadly, the module 18 may simply be referred to as a "first" module, for distinguishing it from the "second" module 20, or from other modules to be used in assembling a user interface device. The features on the modules 18 and 20 may be regarded simply as first and second sets of features, without making a distinction between importance or width of applicability of the different sets of features. The second module 20 is a specialty module which can be selected from a set of specialty modules including a mufti-media control module, a game control module, a reader module for reading information stored on a storage module, a universal serial bus (USB), interface module and a joystick module.

Page 8, replace last paragraph and continuing onto page 9 with the following paragraph:

Modules, in addition to providing different sets of user interface features, can also provide different functionality not directly visible to the user. For instance, the communication between the user interface device and the computer can be implemented in different ways by different modules. Two such communication protocols are the newer USB protocol, and the more venerable PS2 protocol. Different modules may implement these different protocols. For instance, in the example of FIGS. 2 and 3, the communications cable 14 is directly coupled to the module 20. Accordingly,

different modules 20 include electrical implementations of different communications protocols. The user selects a particular one of the modules 20 based on which protocols is desired. The different modules include, as illustrated in FIG. 2, a multimedia control module 20a, a game control module 20b, a reader module for reading information stored or a storage module 20c, a universal serial bus interface module 20d, a joystick module 20e, a control panel 20f, and an instrument panel 20g.

Page 9, replace third full paragraph with the following paragraph:

Also, the development time of a module is likely to be less than that of a whole keyboard, so modularity as per the invention reduces the development cycle from that for new keyboards. When new technologies are introduced, flexibility is increased, both for the manufacturer and for the user. For instance, the user can upgrade the communication protocol from PS2 to USB by simply purchasing the different module, and coupling it to the module 18.

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes in accordance with the Amendment filed on August 3, 2001 in the parent case, i.e., Application Serial No. 09/212,125.